

BRITISH GRASSES

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SESSION 1932 - 1933.

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BRITISH GRASSES

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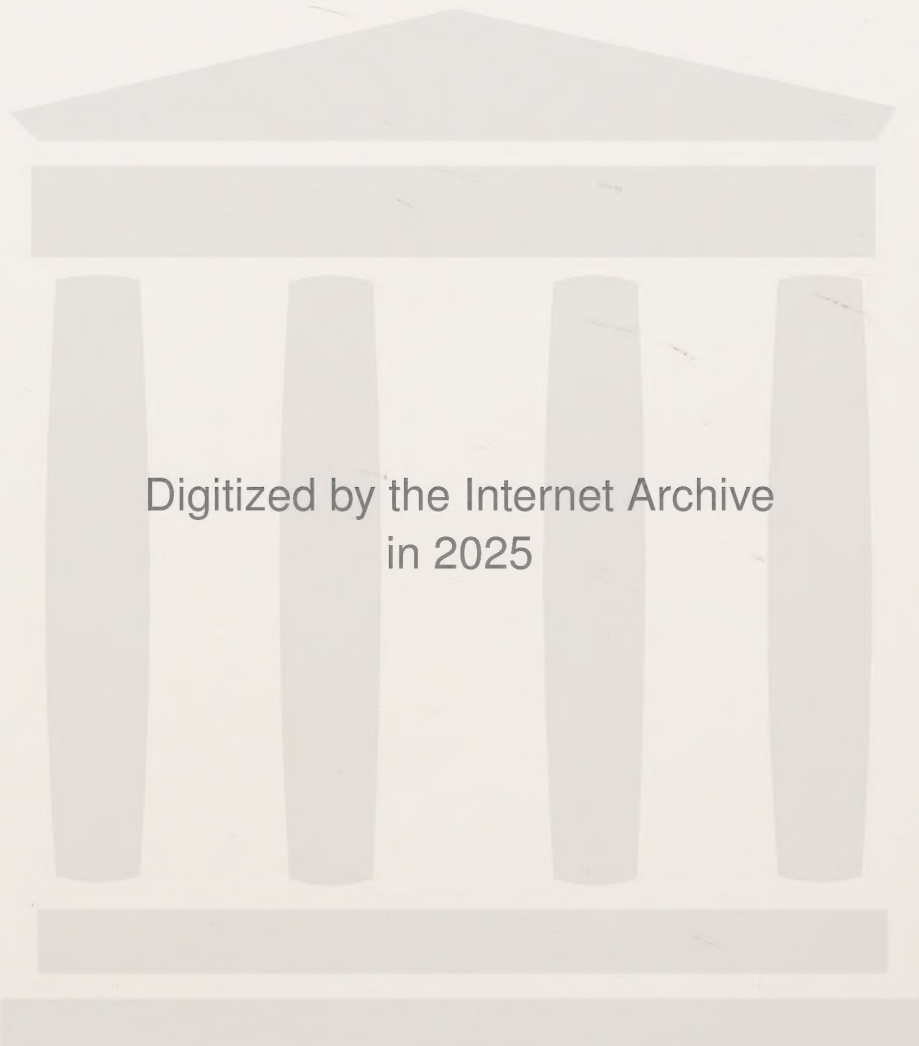
Preface

It is surprising how few people can name the Grasses to be found in every field or hedgerow; the reason is that it is difficult to identify these from a printed description in botanical language. Lithographs and wood engravings are aids to identification, but they must always lack the true touch of Nature.

Photography alone can give a real facsimile, and it is astonishing that a Book of Grasses has not already been produced in this way. If a magnifying glass be used on the photographs here reproduced, the most minute details essential for identification may be clearly seen. The feature of this work is, therefore, absolute truth to Nature, as distinguished from an artificial copy, however well done. Mr. A. M. Mackie, one of our staff, has mounted between sixty and seventy Grasses, showing the peculiarities of each, root, stem, and flowering head; the work neatly and carefully done—a labour of love by an enthusiastic botanist. These were photographed by an experienced artist, and the results were so satisfactory that I decided to publish them in book form as a contribution to the study of Grasses. I am convinced that the pastures of Britain can be vastly improved, and there is also no question but that the various Grasses in commerce can be doubled in value by selecting and crossing.

A knowledge of the Grasses here shown is therefore of great practical value to every farmer, seedsman and student, and as it is hoped that this work will be of such general service, I have purposely described the Grasses in plain language; full descriptions can easily be got by reference to any botanical work such as Bentham and Hooker's "British Flora."

J. F. MCGILL.



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List of Plates appearing in Book

1. <i>Aira praecox</i>	Early Mountain Hair Grass
2. <i>Aira caryophyllea</i>	Silver Hair Grass
3. <i>Aira flexuosa</i>	Wavy Mountain Hair Grass
4. <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail
5. <i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>	Floating Foxtail
6. <i>Avena pubescens</i>	Downy Oat Grass
7. <i>Avena elatior</i>	Tall Oat Grass
8. <i>Avena flavescens</i>	Golden Oat Grass
9. <i>Ammophila arundinacea</i>	Sea Maram
10. <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal
11. <i>Agrostis canina</i>	Brown Bent Grass
12. <i>Agrostis alba stolonifera</i>	Florin or Creeping Bent Grass
13. <i>Agrostis vulgaris</i>	Fine Bent Grass
14. <i>Briza media</i>	Quaking Grass
15. <i>Briza maxima</i>	Quaking Grass
16. <i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	Slender False Brome Grass
17. <i>Bromus asper</i>	Hairy Wood Brome Grass
18. <i>Bromus mollis</i>	Soft Brome Grass
19. <i>Bromus erectus</i>	Upright Brome Grass
20. <i>Bromus sterilis</i>	Barren Brome Grass
21. <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dogtail
22. <i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair Grass
23. <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot
24. <i>Festuca pratensis</i>	Meadow Fescue
25. <i>Festuca elatior</i>	Tall Fescue Grass
26. <i>Festuca ovina</i>	Sheeps Fescue
27. <i>Festuca uniglumis</i>	One Glumed Fescue
28. <i>Festuca rubra duriuscula</i>	Hard Fescue
29. <i>Festuca rubra (maritima)</i>	Creeping Hard Fescue
30. <i>Festuca sciuroides</i>	Squirrel Tailed Fescue Grass
31. <i>Festuca rostr-belliioides</i>	Dwarf Fescue Grass
32. <i>Festuca rigida</i>	Rigid Wall Fescue
33. <i>Festuca bromoides</i>	Barren Fescue Grass
34. <i>Festuca loliacea</i>	Ryegrass like Fescue
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36. <i>Glyceria fluitans</i>	Floating Meadow Fescue
37. <i>Glyceria maritima</i>	Creeping Sea-meadow Grass
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List of Plates—*continued*

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43. <i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye Grass
44. <i>Lolium perenne</i> (var)	Perennial Rye Grass
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46. <i>Lolium temulentum</i>	Darnel
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48. <i>Molinia caerulea</i>	Purple Moor Grass
49. <i>Milium effusum</i>	Wood Millet Grass
50. <i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood Melic Grass
51. <i>Nardus stricta</i>	Mat Grass
52. <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary Grass
53. <i>Phalaris canariensis</i>	Canary Grass
54. <i>Phleum arenarium</i>	Sea Timothy
55. <i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy or Catstail
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57. <i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth Stalked Meadow Grass
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59. <i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow Grass
60. <i>Phragmites communis</i>	Common Reed
61. <i>Triticum junceum</i>	Jointed Couch Grass
62. <i>Triticum acutum</i>	Sea Couch Grass
63. <i>Triticum caninum</i>	Fibrous Rooted Couch Grass
64. <i>Triticum repens</i>	Couch or Twitch Grass
65. <i>Triodia decumbens</i>	Decumbent Heath Grass



EARLY MOUNTAIN HAIR GRASS

Aira praecox

Annual : Root fibrous : Flowers May to July.

An early grass of little value found generally throughout Great Britain.



SILVER HAIR GRASS
Aira caryophyllea

Annual: Root fibrous: Flowers end of June and ripens end of July.
This grass is of little use to the farmer as it produces very little foliage which soon withers.



WAVY MOUNTAIN HAIR GRASS
Aira flexuosa

Perennial: Root fibrous: Flowers July to August.
This grass is eaten by sheep, but it is not recommended for cultivation.



MEADOW FOXTAIL
Alopecurus pratensis

Perennial: Root fibrous: Flowers in May and beginning of June.
Grows naturally on good soil in moist meadows. This is one of the earliest and best of pasture grasses.



FLOATING FOXTAIL
Alopecurus geniculatus

Perennial: Root fibrous: Flowers April to June.

Found growing naturally in damp places, but is of no use agriculturally as it is not eaten by stock.



DOWNY OAT GRASS
Avena pubescens

Perennial: Root fibrous: Flowers from June to July.

This grass is not used in agriculture, although stock will eat it when mixed with other grasses.



TALL OAT GRASS
Avena elatior

Perennial: Root fibrous: Flowers June to July.

This grass produces a very good crop of hay and grows quickly. It is only recently that agriculturists have realised its value.



GOLDEN OAT GRASS
Avena flavescens

Perennial: Root fibrous: Flowers June to July.

This is a grass which does not get the consideration it deserves. On dry land it produces a good bulk of hay of which cattle are very fond, and an excellent aftermath.



SEA MARAM
Ammophila arundinacea

Perennial: Root creeping: Flowers July.
This grass is of great value on the shores as a sand binder



SWEET VERNAL
Anthoxanthum odoratum

Perennial: Root fibrous: Flowers June to July.
Cattle are not fond of this although they will eat it when mixed with other grasses.



BROWN BENT GRASS
Agrostis canina

Perennial : Root creeping : Flowers June to July.
This is not used agriculturally. It is found growing on poor wet land



FIORIN OR CREEPING BENT GRASS
Agrostis alba stolonifera

Perennial : Root creeping : Flowers June to August.
This is found growing naturally in wet places.



FINE BENT GRASS
Agrostis vulgaris

Perennial : Root somewhat creeping : Flowers July to August.
This is said to be disliked by cattle and is not used agriculturally.



QUAKING GRASS
Briza media

Perennial : Root fibrous : Flowers June to July.
This is of little use as an agricultural grass.



QUAKING GRASS
Briza maxima

Annual : Root fibrous : Flowers May to June.

This is a South European plant and is grown in gardens for decorative effect.



SLENDER FALES BROME GRASS
Brachypodium sylvaticum

Perennial : Root fibrous : Flowers June to July.
This is of no agricultural value.



HAIRY WOOD BROME GRASS
Bromus asper

Annual : Root fibrous : Flowers July to August.
This is found in woods. It is not recommended for agricultural purposes.



SOFT BROME GRASS
Bromus mollis

Annual: Root fibrous: Flowers May to August.

This is one of the worst weeds found in Perennial Ryegrass. Cattle do not like the foliage.



UPRIGHT BROME GRASS
Bromus erectus

Perennial: Root fibrous: Flowers June to August.
This is found in chalky soils. Of little or no feeding value.



BARREN BROME GRASS
Bromus sterilis

Annual : Root creeping : Flowers June to July.
This is not used agriculturally.



CRESTED DOGSTAIL
Cynosurus cristatus

Perennial : Root fibrous : Flowers July to August.
This is probably the best pasture grass we have. It is greedily eaten by sheep



TUFTED HAIR GRASS OR TUSOCK GRASS
Deschampsia caespitosa

Perennial: Root fibrous: Flowers July and August.
Owing to the roughness and coarseness of the leaves it is of no use for cattle feeding.



COCKSFOOT
Dactylis glomerata

Perennial : Root fibrous : Flowers June to September.

This is one of the best pasture grasses we have. It should be kept well eaten as stock dislike it when grown coarse.



MEADOW FESCUE
Festuca pratensis

Perennial: Root fibrous: Flowers June to August.
This is one of the best grasses for hay and cattle are very fond of it.



TALL FESCUE GRASS
Festuca elatior

Perennial : Root fibrous : Flowers June to August.

Grows naturally in good soil of a clayey nature and gives a good crop. Cattle are very fond of it.



SHEEP'S FESCUE
Festuca ovina

Perennial: Root fibrous: Flowers June to July.

This grass is relished by sheep and forms the chief grass of nearly all the hilly sheep pastures



ONE GLUMED FESCUE
Festuca uniglumis

Annual : Root fibrous : Flowers June and July.
This is to be found on sandy sea coasts but is of no use agriculturally.



HARD FESCUE
Festuca rubra duriuscula

Perennial : Root-creeping : Flowers June to July. This is one of the most important grasses in agricultural use. It produces a large crop of foliage and is of early growth. Sheep are very fond of it



CREeping HARD FESCUE OR RED FESCUE
***Festuca rubra* (maritima)**

Perennial : Root creeping : Flowers June to July.
To be found on light sandy sea shores throughout Britain.



SQUIRREL TAILED FESCUE GRASS
Festuca scuiroides

Annual: Root fibrous: Flowers June to August.
The seed of this grass is a common impurity in the seed of Perennial Ryegrass.



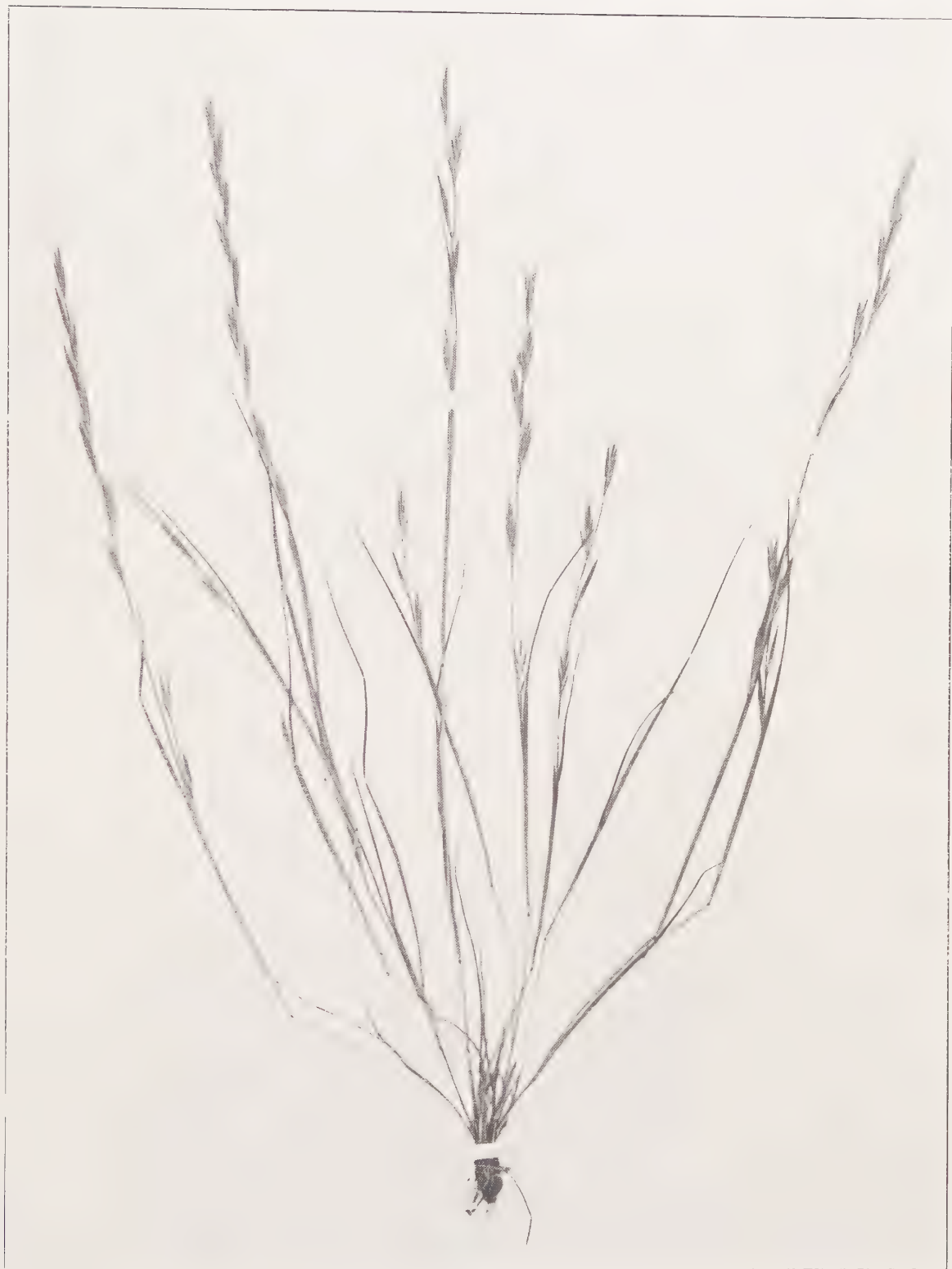
DWARF FESCUE GRASS
Festuca rott-bellioides

Found on light sandy soils near the sea shore.



RIGID WALL FESCUE
Festuca rigida

Annual : Root fibrous : Flowers June to July.
This is found growing on walls and rocks, but is of no agricultural value.



BARREN FESCUE GRASS
Festuca bromoides nana

Annual : Root fibrous : Flowers June to August.

This is not used agriculturally, but is occasionally found in corn fields.



RYEGRASS LIKE FESCUE
Festuca loliacea

Perennial : Root fibrous : Flowers July.
This is not used agriculturally.



FLOATING MEADOW GRASS
Glyceria plicata

Perennial : Flowers July to August.

Found growing abundantly in canals and streams throughout Great Britain.



FLOATING MEADOW GRASS
Glyceria fluitans

Perennial : Root creeping : Flowers July to August.
This is found growing naturally in wet shady places.



CREEPING SEA-MEADOW GRASS
Glyceria maritima

Perennial : Root creeping : Flowers July to September.
This is found in salt marshes.



REED MEADOW GRASS
Glyceria aquatica

Perennial: Root creeping: Flowers April to August.

This is used in the south of England for water meadows on which it yields abundant crops of hay.



REFLEXED MEADOW GRASS

Glyceria distans

Perennial: Root fibrous: Flowers July to October.

This is one of the most inferior grasses found growing on sandy pastures and waste places near the sea.



WALL BARLEY
Hordeum murinum

Annual : Root fibrous : Flowers June to July.
This is common throughout Britain, but is of poor feeding value.



YORKSHIRE FOG
Holcus lanatus

Perennial: Root fibrous: Flowers June to August.

This is one of the most common weeds in Perennial Ryegrass, and is of poor agricultural value as stock do not like it.



CRESTED HAIR GRASS
Koeleria cristata

Perennial : Flowers June to July.

This is found near the sea and on dry pastures throughout Great Britain. It is of poor feeding value.



PERENNIAL RYEGRASS
Lolium perenne

Perennial: Root Fibrous: Flowers June to August. There are about seventy varieties of this grass which undoubtedly is the principal in agriculture. Its ability to stand extremes of climate has given it the place it holds as, when other grasses are killed by winter frosts or summer heat, Perennial Ryegrass can be depended on to withstand both. It also produces a very large crop of hay.



PERENNIAL RYEGRASS
***Lolium perenne* (var.)**

A stunted form of Perennial Ryegrass as described on Plate 43.



ITALIAN RYEGRASS
Lolium italicum

Biennial : Root fibrous : Flowers June to July. This grass is of particular interest to dairy farmers. On account of its quick growing properties it gives an abundant return in the first year's hay or pasture. Extensively used in catch-crops after early potatoes.



DARNEL
Lolium temulentum

Annual: Root fibrous: Flowers June to July. This grass is most common.
Among corn it has the reputation of being *poisonous*, but there is no definite evidence on this point.



HARD SEA GRASS
Lepturus filiformis

Annual: Root branched. This is abundant round the shores of the Mediterranean, and it occurs on the shores of Britain, but is not generally common.



PURPLE MOOR GRASS
Molinia caerulea

Perennial: Root fibrous: Flowers July to August.
Found in wet heathy moors and woods. It is common throughout Great Britain, but is of no agricultural value.



WOOD MILLET GRASS
Miliun effusum

Perennial : Root fibrous : Flowers June to July.

This is of no use agriculturally. It is common throughout Britain and is to be found in moist woods.



WOOD MELIC GRASS
Melica uniflora

Perennial : Root creeping : Flowers May to July.
This is found in woods and cattle are fond of its leaves.



MAT GRASS
Nardus stricta

Perennial : Root fibrous : Flowers June to August.

This is common on the moors, but is of no agricultural value as cattle do not eat it.



REED CANARY GRASS
Phalaris arundinacea

Perennial : Root creeping : Flowers July and August.

This grass produces a large crop of foliage, but of poor feeding value. Found growing abundantly on marshes and canal banks.



CANARY GRASS
Phalaris canariensis

Annual: Flowers June to September.

This is a native of the Canary Isles, but has become naturalised in Britain and America where it is cultivated for its seed.



SEA TIMOTHY
Phleum arenarium

Annual: Root fibrous: Flowers June to July.

This is found on the sea shores and is very common on the coasts of England and Ireland. It is not used for agricultural purposes.



TIMOTHY OR CATSTAIL
Phleum pratense

Perennial: Flowers June to August.

This grass is largely grown on stiff clay land and produces a big crop of hay.



ROUGH STALKED MEADOW GRASS
Poa trivialis

Perennial: Root-creeping: Flowers June to July.
This grass is superior in quality to *Poa pratensis*, but does not stand the frost or drought so well.



SMOOTH STALKED MEADOW GRASS
Poa pratensis

Perennial : Root creeping : Flowers June to July.

This is one of the earliest grasses and is very valuable as a drought resister.



WOOD MEADOW GRASS
Poa nemoralis

Perennial : Root creeping : Flowers June to July.
This is one of the best grasses we have for sowing on lawns, &c.



ANNUAL MEADOW GRASS
Poa annua

Annual: Root fibrous: Flowers February to October.

This is one of the commonest of our grasses, but its ephemeral character renders it of little value for any purpose.



COMMON REED
Phragmites communis

Perennial : Root creeping : Flowers August and September.
This grass is of no agricultural value.



JOINTED COUCH GRASS
Triticum junceum

Perennial : Root creeping : Flowers June to August.

This is to be found on the sea shore where it grows naturally. It is of great use in binding loose sand.



SEA COUCH GRASS
Triticum acutum

A maritime variety, stiffer and more glaucous with the leaves almost pungent.



FIBROUS ROOTED COUCH GRASS
Triticum caninum

Perennial : Root fibrous : Flowers June to August.

This grows naturally in damp shady places. It produces a large crop of herbage which is relished by stock.



COUCH OR TWITCH GRASS
Triticum repens

Perennial: Root creeping: Flowers July.
A most troublesome weed and difficult to eradicate.



DECUMBENT HEATH GRASS
Triodia decumbens

Perennial : Root somewhat creeping : Flowers July to August.
This is found on dry mountain pastures, but is not used agriculturally.



